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Attorney's Docket No. 020600-283

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Günther SCHMIDT *et al.*

Application No.: 09/462,408

Filed: April 10, 2000

For: CHARACTERISING NUCLEIC
ACIDS

Group Art Unit: 1655

Examiner: Betty J. Forman

13/C
AF/WE
E. William
5-8-02

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is filed in complete response to the Official Action mailed on December 26, 2001 (Paper No. 11). A one-month extension of time has been requested and the corresponding fee paid extending the time period of response until April 26, 2002.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1, 21-24, and 27 as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A method for characterizing DNA, which comprises:
 - (i) providing a population of fragments of said DNA, each fragment having cleavably attached thereto a mass label for identifying a feature of that fragment;
 - (ii) separating the fragments by capillary electrophoresis, thereby determining the length of each fragment;